CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system that tracks a focus point within data, comprising:

a detection component that obtains a position of the focus point within the data;

a storage component that saves the position; and

a tracking component that retrieves the position from the storage component and utilizes the position to locate the focus point within the data.

2. The system of claim 1, the detection component further receives an input associated with one of begin tracking the focus point, end tracking the focus point and return to the focus point.

3. The system of claim 2, the input comprising one of an event, an IRQ, a signal, flag, a request, and an audio stimulus.

4. The system of claim 2, the input further comprising one or more of the position of the focus point and a unique identification of the focus point.

5. The system of claim 1, the position of the focus point comprising one or more coordinates of the focus point relative to the data.

6. The system of claim 1, the data comprising one of a file, a document, a spreadsheet, a table, a list, a chart and a file structure.

7. The system of claim 1, further comprising a removal component that deletes the position of the focus point from the storage component after one of receiving a user request to delete the position, a time lapse and a period of inactivity.

8. The system of claim 1 is employed in connection with a graphical user interface.

9. A user interface that graphically tracks a user-identified item of interest, comprising:

a viewing region that provides the user a window to observe at least a portion of information from a set of information;

a scroll bar that maps to the set of information;

a slider associated with the scroll bar that is moved relative to the scroll bar to determine the at least a portion of information that is displayed within the viewing region; and

a component that obtains a location of the user-identified item of interest, generates a graphical indicator for the item of interest and maps the graphical indicator to the scroll bar to provide the user with a visible indication of the location of the item of interest within the set of information.

10. The system of claim 9, the scroll bar is oriented in one of an orthogonal, a parallel, an acute and an obtuse angle with respect to an axis of the viewing region.

11. The system of claim 9, the user identifies the item of interest by highlighting the item *via* at least one of a mouse, a keystroke and an audio stimulus.

12. The system of claim 9, the user removes the graphical indicator from the scroll bar *via* one of unhighlighting the item of interest and deleting the graphical indicator.

13. The system of claim 9, the user returns to the item of interest *via* one of moving the slider proximate to the graphical indicator and invoking the graphical indicator.

14. The system of claim 13, the graphical indicator is invoked *via* one or more of a mouse, a keystroke and an audio stimulus.

15. The system of claim 13, invoking the graphical indicator automatically returns the item of interest within the viewing region.

16. The system of claim 9, the user changes the item of interest by moving the graphical indicator.

17. The system of claim 9, the component further employed to generate and associate graphical indicators for one or more additional user-identified items of interest.

18. The system of claim 9, the graphical indicator is visible within the slider when the item of interest is visible within the viewing window.

19. The system of claim 9, the graphical indicator dynamically changes in size in response to a change in size in the set of information in order to maintain a relative indication of the percentage of information represented by the graphical indicator relative to the set of information.

20. The system of claim 9, further comprising one or more additional scroll bars that are employed in connection with one or more additional sliders to provide for multi-dimensional tracking of the item of interest.

21. The system of claim 9, further comprising an intelligence component that facilitates adding and removing the graphical indicator and returning the item of interest to the viewing region.

22. The system of claim 21, the intelligence comprising at least one of a statistic, a probability, an inference and a classifier.

23. A method that adds graphical indicia related to a point of focus to a scroll bar, comprising:

receiving an input associated with a user-identified point of focus within a list;

obtaining a location of the user-identified point of focus within the list; and

adding a first graphical indicator to the scroll bar, the first graphical indicator provides a relative location of the user-identified point of focus within the list.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising adding a second graphical indicator to the scroll bar, the second graphical indicator is associated with a second user-identified point of focus within the list.

25. The method of claim 24, the second graphical indicator is differentiated from the first graphical indicator by at least one of color, size, shape and position.

26. The method of claim 23, further comprising positioning a pointer proximate to the graphical indicia to obtain information indicative of the point of focus.

27. A method that returns a point of focus to a user, comprising:
selecting a graphical indicator that is associated with the point of focus;
obtaining a position of the point of focus from the graphical indicator; and
utilizing the position to locate the point of focus within data.

28. The method of claim 27, further comprising positioning a pointer over the graphical indicator to obtain information indicative of the point of focus in order to facilitate selecting the desired graphical indicator from a plurality of graphical indicators.

29. The method of claim 27, further comprising invoking the graphical indicator to automatically return the point of focus to the user.

30. The method of claim 27, further comprising manually navigating a slider proximate to the graphical indicator to return the point of focus to the user.

31. A system that graphically tracks user-identified foci, comprising:
means for identifying foci;
means for generating graphical indicia associated with the foci;
means for associating the graphical indicia with a positioning mechanism; and
means for employing the positioning mechanism in connection with the graphical indicia to view the foci.